

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2005. Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 9, 11 to 14, 17 and 19 to 28 remain in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 16 and 18 having been canceled. Claims 2, 7, 11, 17 and 19 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 7 to 9, 17 and 19 to 28 are allowable.

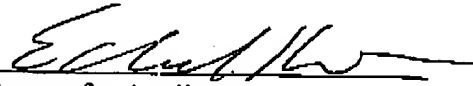
Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 to 14 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. While Applicants believe that these claims are allowable over the art of record, Applicants have nonetheless chosen to rewrite Claims 2 and 11 into independent form merely to obtain the earliest possible allowance of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, now independent Claims 2 and 11, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,444 (Goldschmidt). Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, and inasmuch as Applicants believe the claims are allowable, the rejected claims have nonetheless been cancelled, thereby obviating the rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No.: 42,746

FTI ZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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